

beyond said outer floor covering so as to present a border along the edge of said inner floor covering.

*color blue*

102  
4. [Twice Amended] A floor panel as claimed in claim [3]1 wherein said border includes an edge lying in the same plane as said inner panel.

*(color blue)*

10 3100 Gibber  
5. [Twice Amended] A floor panel as claimed in claim [4]1 wherein said inner floor covering presents a clear resin film between said inner and outer floor panels wherein said inner floor covering is comprised of high pressure-laminate.

*(new matter spec only)*

*discloses an adhesive or a high wear film*

*the adhesive*

102  
3548  
559  
7. [Twice Amended] A floor panel for an elevated floor comprising:

*(4)*

(a) a rectangular base structure adapted to be supported at the corners thereof, said base structure providing a planar load bearing surface;

*(color red)*

*(6)*

(b) rectangular planar inner floor covering co-extensive with said [rectangular base] planar load bearing surface and adhesively secured thereto;

*(12)*

(c) a separate rectangular planar outer floor covering secured to said inner floor covering, said inner floor covering extending beyond said outer floor covering so as to present a border along said peripheral edge of said inner floor covering.

*color blue*

102 3548 559  
9. [Twice Amended] A floor panel as claimed in claim [8]1 wherein said outer floor covering presents [a] an outer clear resin film NARS in spec only says

*vinyl*

10. [Twice Amended]

A floor panel for an elevated floor comprising:

102 4625 491

<sup>13</sup>  
 (a) a rectangular base structure adapted to be supported at the corners thereof; said base structure providing a load bearing surface;

<sup>I</sup> <sup>blurred</sup> (22-32)  
 (b) a rectangular inner floor covering having a dark surface co-extensive with said rectangular base and adhesively secured thereto;

<sup>0</sup> (21)  
 (c) a separate rectangular outer floor covering secured to said inner floor covering, said inner floor covering extending beyond said outer floor coverings so as to present a border along said peripheral edge of said inner floor covering; <sup>14/13</sup>

(d) [A floor panel as claimed in claim 9] wherein said inner floor covering presents a clear resin film between said inner and outer floor panels.

*do also claim 11 as 1-3 does not say edge but abv it*

13. [Twice Amended]

<sup>present wall f. wall surface.</sup>  
 A method of producing a floor panel for an elevated floor comprising the steps of:

- <sup>NAT inspect</sup>  
<sup>inpreg. with resin</sup>  
<sup>abv resin</sup>  
<sup>before</sup>
- (a) cutting a rectangular planar outer floor covering, said outer floor covering including a top wear surface, and an adhesive surface opposite said top wear surface;
  - (b) applying an adhesive to said adhesive surface;
  - (c) inserting said outer floor covering into a framed jig adapted to receive and retain said outer floor covering in a desired position with said top wear surface inserted first into said jig;

- (d) cutting a rectangular inner floor covering, said inner floor covering extending beyond said outer floor covering so as to present a border along said peripheral edge of said inner floor covering relative said outer floor covering, said inner floor covering including a top and bottom surface;
- (e) applying an adhesive to said top and bottom surfaces of said inner floor covering;
- (f) inserting said inner floor covering into a framed jig adapted to receive and retain said inner floor covering so as to contact and adhesively secure the inner floor covering to said adhesive surface of said outer floor covering and present a border along the peripheral edge of said inner floor covering;
- (g) applying an adhesive to a [rectangular] planar rectangular load bearing surface presented by a base structure;
- (h) inserting said planar rectangular load bearing surface of said base structure into said framed jig so as to secure said base structure to said inner floor covering so as to produce said floor panel;
- (i) removing said floor panel from said jig.

Agent for Applicant encloses herewith a clean copy of the claims as amended for entry.

Kindly note that Agent for Applicant has amended the claims so as to focus on:

1. the floor panel comprising a base structure providing a planar load bearing surface, a planar inner floor covering adhesively secured to said load bearing surface of said base structure and an outer planar covering adhesively secured to the inner floor covering;
2. the inner floor covering presents a clear resin film between the inner and outer floor panels;
3. the border includes a edge lying in the same plane as the inner panel.

#### **CLAIM OBJECTION**

Examiner objected to claim 9 on the basis that the word "a" in line 2 should be —an—  
-. Kindly note that the claim has been amended as requested.

#### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

Examiner stated that claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this regard kindly note that claim 10 has been amended as requested.

#### **35 U.S.C. § 102**

Examiner stated that claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected as being anticipated by Griffin. In particular Examiner stated that Griffin discloses a floor panel having a base (26) having inner (24) and outer (70) panels adhesively bonded thereto; wherein, the inner panel (24) extends beyond the outer panel (70) to form a border (66).

In this regard Agent for Applicant respectfully states that Griffin does not teach:

1. the floor panel comprising a base structure providing a planar load bearing surface, a planar inner floor covering adhesively secured to said load bearing

surface of said base structure and an outer planar covering adhesively secured to the inner floor covering;

2. *not claimed in claim 1 or claim 7 or claim 13*  
the inner floor covering presents a clear resin film between the inner and outer floor panels.

3. *also not in claim 1 or 7 or claim 13*  
the border includes a edge lying in the same plane as the inner panel.

More particularly Applicant has further defined that the base structure presents a load bearing surface plus an inner planar floor covering adhesively secured to the load bearing surface of the base structure and an outer planar floor covering adhesively secured to the inner floor covering. Griffin does not teach such a structure since Griffin's load bearing structure which consists of the upper metal sheet (24) includes only one other panel namely (70). In other words, Griffin only teaches a load bearing surface (i.e. 24) presented by the base structure (26) with only one floor covering namely element (70).

Moreover Griffin teaches that the border (66) does not lie in the same plane as the inner panel since Griffin teaches as shown in Figure 2 that:

the upper metal sheet (24) generally comprises a planar section (42) having a downwardly deflected edge (44)... (see col. 2, lines 42-43).

Applicant's invention as claimed does not present a downwardly deflected edge but rather a border which includes an edge lying in the same plane as the inner panel.

Moreover Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7 and 12 as being anticipated by Cline. In particular Examiner stated that Cline discloses a floor panel including a base (16) having inner (17) and outer (12) panels adhesively bonded thereto, wherein the inner panel (17) extends beyond the outer panel (12) to form a border.

In this regard Agent for Applicant respectfully states that Cline does not teach:

1. the floor panel comprising a base structure providing a planar load bearing surface, a planar inner floor covering adhesively secured to said load bearing surface of said base structure and an outer planar covering adhesively secured to the inner floor covering;
2. the inner floor covering presents a clear resin film between the inner and outer floor panels.
3. the border includes a edge lying in the same plane as the inner panel.

In particular Cline includes a load bearing surface (17) which is presented by the base (16) and only one panel (12) adhesively bonded thereto whereas Applicant teaches a load bearing surface presented by the base with a first inner panel adhesively secured to the load bearing surface **and** a second outer panel adhesively secured to the inner panel, said inner panel extending beyond the outer floor panel so as to present a border along the edge of the inner panel.

**35 U.S.C. § 103**

Moreover Examiner stated that claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected as being unpatentable over Griffin, Cline and Gibson.

In this regard Agent for Applicant respectfully states that none of the cited prior art teaches:

1. the floor panel comprising a base structure providing a planar load bearing surface, a planar inner floor covering adhesively secured to said load bearing surface of said base structure and an outer planar covering adhesively secured to the inner floor covering;
2. the inner floor covering presents a clear resin film between the inner and outer floor panels.
3. the border includes a edge lying in the same plane as the inner panel.